



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE INDICTED FOR COMPUTER HACKING TO PROMOTE PROSTITUTION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a federal employee in Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury today for illegally using her computer access at the Department of Health and Human Services to promote her own unlawful prostitution business.

Candice G. Smith, 44, of Blue Springs, Mo., was charged with unauthorized computer intrusion in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City. Today's indictment, Graves explained, replaces a federal criminal complaint that was filed against **Smith** on Feb. 25, 2005.

The federal indictment alleges that **Smith** made unauthorized and illegal inquiries into the LexisNexis database that is available to her as a payment recovery specialist for the Center for Medicaid Services (an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services). LexisNexis is a data collection company that provides a database containing non-public information that may only be used for approved purposes, such as credit history and driver's license information, to certain private and government agencies. For example, it is permissible for a government agency to query LexisNexis for law enforcement purposes. LexisNexis may not, however, be queried by an individual to promote personal financial gain.

Smith, who has allegedly been working as a prostitute, made LexisNexis inquiries for personal reasons even though she knew that it was prohibited to do so, and she used the information to aid her in avoiding arrest and prosecution for her prostitution activities, according to the indictment. **Smith** allegedly queried LexisNexis on numerous occasions, without the authority to do so and for her own purpose.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury,

whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeff Valenti. It was investigated by the Department of Health and Human Service - Office of Inspector General, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Federal Protective Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow